



# THE PROCESS OF VACCINE APPROVAL

MEDIA BRIEFING

Date: 24 June 2021

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am

Venue: Virtual

## Prof Helen Rees - SAHPRA Board Chairperson



Prof Helen Rees is the Chairperson of the Board of SAHPRA. Prof Rees is also the Executive Director of the University of Witwatersrand's Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (Wits RHI) where she serves as a Personal Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Co-Director of Wits University's Flagship Centre for Vaccinology (ALIVE). She is an Honorary Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and a member of their Visiting Committee. Professor Rees has been involved in medicines regulation for many years. She was appointed to the Medicines Control Council in 1995 and chaired the Council from 1997 until 2001. During that time, she also chaired the MCC's Clinical Trial Committee and the Pharmacovigilance Committee.

## Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela - SAHPRA CEO



Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela is the CEO of the South African Health Products Regulator. She has a Ph.D. (Biochemistry) and also holds MSc in Management Finance and Investment. She is also a fellow of the African Leadership Initiative. Within the technology innovation space, she managed a biotechnology incubator at The Innovation Hub Management Company. She was with McKinsey & Company for 2 years as a McKinsey Leadership Fellow. Prior to that, she was at the CSIR as a Senior Researcher.

## Prof Marc Blockman - Professor at The Department of Internal Medicine



Professor Marc Blockman is professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, and consultant in the division of clinical pharmacology at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town. He is recognised as an expert on International, National and Provincial Drug Policy; and serves on SAHPRA; as chairperson of the pharmacovigilance expert committee and member of the clinical expert committee. He is a member of the National Essential Drugs Programme of South Africa; and serves on the various expert technical review committees. He is Chair of the Health Sciences Human Research and Ethics Committee, as well as chair of various data safety monitoring committees (DSMBs).

